

Message Text

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43

ACTION INT-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-03 RSC-01 /023 W

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R 281433Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2833

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 1047

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY ET US

SUBJ: SEISMIC RESEARCH OBSERVATORY PROJECT

REF: STATE 10864

1. EMBASSY OFFICER TALKED WITH PROFESSOR GOUIN WHO MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- (A) HE IS HAVING CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES BOTH FINANCIALLY AND ADMINISTRATIVELY WITH NEW INEXPERIENCED UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP;
- (B) SEVERAL PERSONNEL HAVE RECENTLY DEPARTED WITH NO PROSPECT OF THEIR BEING REPLACED IN THE NEAR FUTURE;
- (C) POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN MANY CASES CURRENTLY SEEM TO TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ACADEMIC CONSIDERATIONS.

2. UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, GOUIN FEELS HE CANNOT ENSURE THAT THE OBSERVATORY WILL CONTINUE FUNCTIONING, MUCH LESS AT THE LEVEL REQUIRED FOR SRO. ALTHOUGH GOUIN HAS TENURE, HIS CONTRACT EXPIRES IN JULY AND HE STATES HE WILL NOT RENEW UNLESS SIX DEMANDS ARE MET, WHICH HE CONSIDERS UNLIKELY. GOUIN HAS BEEN HERE 28 YEARS AND FOUNDED THE OBSERVATORY. MUCH OF ITS OPERATION IS FINANCED THROUGH PERSONAL GRANTS TO HIM AND THROUGH HIS OWN OUT-OF-POCKET CONTRIBUTIONS. HE FEELS NOW THAT HE IS RUINING HIS HEALTH FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE TRYING TO CONTINUE RUNNING THE OBSERVATORY. EVEN THOUGH GOUIN IS BEING PRESSURED BY UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT SRO, HE STATED HIS PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY WOULD NOT ALLOW HIM TO GIVE NECESSARY ASSURANCES REQUIRED FOR THIS PROJECT.

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3. RECOMMENDATION. IN LIGHT GOUIN'S REMARKS, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS

THAT AN ALTERNATIVE SITE BE SELECTED FOR PROPOSED SRO. HOWEVER,
GIVEN ADVANTAGES OF ADDIS ABABA LOCATION, USGS MAY ALSO WISH
IN FUTURE TO PURSUE WITH THE EPMG THROUGH EMBASSY THE QUESTION OF
POSSIBLE EVENTUAL LOCATION OF SRO HERE.

4. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
WYMAN

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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